

[0021] Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

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1 1. In a road grader having a rear frame including left and right longitudinal  
2 beams, each having a rear end, and providing for the components or  
3 subassemblies of a rear counterweight, lights and a bumper, the improvement  
4 comprising:

5           the bumper and the rear counterweight are comprised of a generally flat  
6 elongate rear end plate having opposing outer end regions and extending across  
7 the entire width of the grader;

8           the rear end plate exhibits a small wall thickness in use with a rear-  
9 mounted piece of equipment of a high weight;

10          the rear end plate exhibits a greater wall thickness in use with a rear-  
11 mounted piece of equipment of a low weight or without any rear-mounted  
12 equipment;

13          the rear end plate viewed in the direction of travel of the grader constitutes  
14 the rearmost part of the rear frame; and

15          backup/brake and flasher lights are built into openings in the rear end  
16 plate positioned in the outer end regions.

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1 2. The improvement of claim 1, wherein:  
2           the rear end plate is formed as one piece.

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1 3. The improvement of claim 2, wherein:  
2           the rear ends of the left longitudinal beam and the right longitudinal beam  
3 are joined to a rear transverse beam.

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1 4. The improvement of claim 3, wherein:  
2           the rear end plate is removably attached to the rear transverse beam.

1       5.     The improvement of claim 1, wherein:  
2              the rear ends of the left longitudinal beam and the right longitudinal beam  
3     are joined to a rear transverse beam.

1       6.     The improvement of claim 2, wherein:  
2              the rear ends of the left longitudinal beam and the right longitudinal beam  
3     are joined to a rear transverse beam.

1       7.     The improvement of claim 3, wherein:  
2              the rear end plate is removably attached to the rear transverse beam.

1       8.     A road grader comprising:  
2              a wheel-supported main frame having a front end and an opposing rear  
3     end as determined by the normal direction of travel, the main frame comprised of  
4     joined front and rear frames;  
5              an engine and a driver's cab supported on said main frame;  
6              a vertically adjustable ground-engaging blade supported by said main  
7     frame;  
8              the rear frame having left and right longitudinal beams generally parallel  
9     and in the general same horizontal plane, each with a rear end;  
10          a generally flat elongate rear end plate jointed to the rear end of each of  
11     the right and left longitudinal beams; the rear end plate constituting the rearmost  
12     part of the rear frame and extending generally the width of the road grader;  
13          the rear end plate having openings therethrough to accommodate the  
14     attachment of rear-mounted equipment.

1       9.     The road grader of claim 8, wherein:  
2              the rear end plate is formed as one piece.

- 1    10.    The road grader of claim 9, wherein:
  - 2       the rear end plate is removably attached to the rear transverse beam.
  
- 1    11.    The road grader of claim 8, wherein:
  - 2       the rear end plate has opposing outer end portions and openings through
  - 3       the outer end portions and backup/brake and flasher lights are fitted therein.
  
- 1    12.    The road grader of claim 11, wherein:
  - 2       the rear end plate is made of heavy gauge steel.